



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department

Mass Arrest Procedures

General Order 1.15

POLICY

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department has a responsibility to coordinate and plan for incidents in which mass arrests are a possibility. In the event an incident results in mass arrests, the procedures set forth in this General Order will be followed.

DEFINITION

Mass Arrest: The arrest of twenty (20) or more individuals from one (1) location at or near the same time.

PROCEDURE

I. Planning – *Generally*

- A. Prior planning for events in which mass arrests are a possibility should greatly assist in the orderly processing of persons arrested. If there is advance knowledge of a disturbance or event and mass arrests are likely, the following actions are recommended under the direction of the Incident Commander:
 1. Notify the Arrestee Processing Center (APC) Commander of the possibility of a mass arrest situation as soon as possible.
 2. Plans should be made in advance for a processing point away from the incident scene in the event it is deemed necessary by the Incident Commander.
 - a. If a field processing point is established away from the incident scene, coordination with all agencies that may have jurisdiction is necessary. However, the “processing point” and the incident location could be the same place based on the volatility of the crowd or persons arrested.
 3. The IMPD has an agreement with the Marion County Sheriff’s Department to provide an adequate supply of jail wagons and/or mass transport vehicles. [<46.1.3h>](#)
 4. Ensure an adequate supply of cameras (and film if necessary) with instant photographic capabilities.
 5. Coordinate with the initial hearing court and the prosecutor’s office for persons not released on a summons to appear. [<46.1.3j>](#)
 6. Prepare arrest packets to include an Officer Arrest Report, flex cuffs, self-seal property bags, and property room vouchers.

II. Arrest Procedures [<46.1.3a>](#)

- A. Any person arrested will be removed from the general area of the disturbance or protest to a designated ‘processing point’.
 1. Juvenile offenders shall be segregated and processed separately from adult prisoners. [<46.1.3b>](#)



- B. All persons arrested will be handcuffed (preferably with flex cuffs) and searched. [<71.2.1>](#)
- C. Any weapons or evidence found should be maintained by the searching officer, if practical. [<46.1.3e>](#)
 - 1. If an Evidence Technician is at the processing area, all properly collected evidence and forms shall be recovered by the Evidence Technician.
- D. APC staff, if needed, will be staged at the processing point to initiate processing, conduct a thorough search, and to collect and log personal property.
- E. If a prisoner has an injury or complains of pain, the arresting officer shall summons an EMS unit to respond to the processing area *prior* to transportation to the APC. [<46.1.3m>](#)
 - 1. If transportation to a medical facility is required, an officer shall accompany the EMS unit.
- F. The Incident Commander will decide whether persons arrested at the incident scene will be issued a misdemeanor summons and released or handled as a full custodial arrest.

III. Photographs and Identification – Processing Point [<46.1.3g>](#)

- A. If feasible, all persons will be photographed with a camera capable of producing instant photographs at the incident scene along with their property (i.e. backpacks, purses, etc).
- B. Identification should be obtained. If a person is uncooperative, list all information obtainable on the front or back of the picture. The prisoner's name, date of birth, and related charge(s) must be written on the picture as well as the arresting officer's name and ID number.

IV. Property Procedures

- A. APC personnel, if utilized, will remove all personal property from prisoners and assist in preparing property slips for property to go to the property room. The arresting officer or an officer designated by the Incident Commander will ensure that any personal property not appropriate for the APC will be transported to the Property Room.
- B. Evidence and contraband found on prisoners will be the responsibility of the arresting officer. If the arresting officer is unable to return to the processing point, he/she will designate an officer ensuring a documented chain of custody.

V. Transportation [<46.1.3c>](#)

- A. Efforts should be made in advance to secure mass transportation that can accommodate the highest expected number of arrested individuals.
- B. The mass transportation should be staged at the 'processing point'.
 - 1. If the processing point is different than the incident site, prisoner wagons should be utilized to bring the prisoners to the processing point.
 - 2. If circumstances do not permit, police vehicles may be used.
- C. Officers should be posted at the front and rear of the mass transportation vehicle during transport to the APC.



VI. Arrestee Processing Center <46.1.3d>

- A. When prisoners arrive at the APC, they will remain on the mass transportation vehicle until removed by APC staff for processing.
- B. Once at the APC, the APC will provide the following:
 - 1. Security; <46.1.3f>
 - 2. Ability to positively identify and process the prisoner;
 - 3. Food, water, and sanitation for the prisoner; <46.1.3l>
 - 4. Medical Treatment; and <46.1.3m>
 - 5. Availability for defense counsel visits per APC Standard Operating Procedures. <46.1.3i>

VII. Media Relations/Public Information (see Public Information General Order) <46.1.3k>

- A. When necessary, the Public Information Officer or designee shall be responsible for designating a 'media/press area' where all media and press personnel will be directed to assemble during mass arrest operations.
- B. Media briefings shall be conducted as the need for information arises.